Perennial Summer Internship Program - 2017

**Internship Title:** Vermont Monitoring Cooperative Forest Health Monitoring Intern  

**Internship Site:** Burlington, Mount Mansfield, Lye Brook Wilderness and other locations around Vermont  

**Description:** Intern will train (as part of a team of interns) with Vermont Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation (VT FPR) and USFS Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests staff to inventory and assess forest plots as part of a statewide forest health monitoring program. Interns will work closely with forest health professionals to establish monitoring plots, quantify stand composition and structure, assess canopy condition, collect hemispherical photos for digital assessments of crown closure, and conduct regeneration and understory assessments.

After training, interns will be expected to work independently to plan daily trips, maintain equipment, interface with landowners, conduct field work, utilize and enter data into the VMC database, as well as develop and contribute content to VMC social media outlets.

After all plots have been measured, interns will be expected to conduct a summary analysis and quality assurance assessment of the data for the year. This could include simple descriptive metrics of plot measurements, or more complex statistical analyses to compare methodologies, species or locations. The intern’s final report on the measurements collected will be published to the VMC web site at the end of the season and promoted at the VMC Annual Conference in December.

**Desired qualifications/skills/coursework:** Because of the nature of this field work, interns must be comfortable in the field and capable of hiking long distances over rough terrain. Some nights may require camping overnight to minimize travel time to clusters of distant plots. There may be days requiring travel where interns will be expected to work 10+ hours (when daylight allows).

Successful applicants must be knowledgeable of the common tree species in our area. This can be demonstrated by having completed the NR21 dendrology course. Because plots are unmarked, comfort with GPS navigation is also required. Exposure to additional forest inventory sampling techniques (hypsometers, d-tapes, prisms, etc.) are preferred but not required.

Some quantitative skills and familiarity with common software such as Microsoft Excel, Access (database functionality) and Powerpoint (presentation and poster development) are helpful in working with data and communicating results of internship efforts. Familiarity with social media is also a plus as interns lead the VMC outreach via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter over the course of the summer.

As with any research study, attention to detail and a willingness to raise questions or concerns are imperative. Because this field crew will work independently for much of the internship, successful applicants must also demonstrate a high level of maturity, responsibility and attention to safety standards.

Because of the nature of this work, it is likely that work weeks will consist of four 10 hour days.

*Rubenstein students currently in their sophomore and junior years are eligible to apply. Earning internship credit through the Rubenstein Internship Program is required.*
**Supervision:** Interns will work closely with Jim Duncan (VMC Director), Jennifer Pontius (RSENR faculty) and Sandy Wilmot (VT FPR) for the first several weeks of the internship. After this initial training period, interns will be expected to continue field work independently and in coordination with VT FPR staff, reporting back to supervisors at the end of each week.

**Start and End Dates:**

Late May – August 18, 2017 (exact start/end dates are negotiable)

**Total Hours:**

40 hours/week for at least 10 weeks

**Compensation:** $11.00 to $12.00/hour commensurate with skills and experience.

**How to apply:** Follow step by step application instructions which are available on the Rubenstein Perennial Internship Program website. This will include logging into the CEMS-RSENR Internship, Co-Op, Research System and submitting the following (as pdfs whenever possible) by midnight, Sunday, January 29th 2017:

a. **Resume**
b. **Cover Letter** - You should upload and submit unique cover letters for each position to which you’re applying
c. **Position Ranking** - If you are applying for more than one Perennial Internship, please provide list of the positions in rank order.
d. **Reference(s)** – Provide name & contact information for at least one professional reference (this could be someone who supervised you in a past work/internship/volunteer position, a professor or teacher, etc.)
e. **Transcript** – Login to your my uvm portal, click on the Registrar link, click Request Official Transcript by email, once received save it as a pdf and upload.
f. A **recommendation form**, completed by a faculty member or teaching assistant, will also need to be submitted on your behalf. Please send this [link](#) to the faculty member/teaching assistant when you ask if they are willing to complete the recommendation form for you. Your recommender will complete & submit this form online and then your recommendation will be confidentially uploaded to your application(s).